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*Sanitary report from Vera Cruz.*VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *June 8, 1899.*

SIR: The yellow fever situation here remains about the same. The rainy season commenced on the 6th, and was accompanied by the largest mortality for any one day of the epidemic. I have heard of several cases along the line of the railroad, but have been unable to get any reliable information on the subject.

The Mexican Government has done nothing in the way of quarantining the disease, and the municipal authorities have taken no steps to enforce their sanitary regulations. The fever is not considered infectious or contagious, and constant intercourse is kept up between the sick rooms and the clubs, offices, and every conceivable place in town. Among the foreigners, it is the custom for the friends to take turns at nursing, and strange to say there has not been a single case of contagion reported, notwithstanding the fact that not one in ten is immune.

The mortality record for the past week, ended June 8, is as follows: Yellow fever cases reported, 149; deaths from yellow fever, 68; deaths from all causes, 118. The shipping continues free from infection.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

## TURKEY.

*Sanitary report from Constantinople.*

[Report No. 219.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *June 1, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report:

## PLAGUE IN ALEXANDRIA.

The sanitary news from Alexandria announces fresh cases of bubonic plague. I have already mentioned the first 2 cases announced by wire May 20. Two more plague cases were announced on the 24th of the same month. On the 27th the appearance of 3 fresh cases were wired, as well as 1 on the 28th. On the 29th it was announced that 2 of the above mentioned plague cases proved fatal.

I have the honor to forward a French copy of the report of Dr. Gotschlich, sanitary inspector of the city of Alexandria, to the general director of the municipality of said town, by which report it will be seen how difficult it is to find out the very first case, the origin of the Alexandria plague manifestation. Very likely the washerwoman who is mentioned in said report has unknowingly spread the evil, by mixing the clothing of her clients among whom, very probably, someone was suffering from the fatal disease.

## QUARANTINE MEASURES AGAINST PLAGUE.

Fresh sanitary steps have been taken by the International Sanitary Commission in order to defend the Turkish Empire from such an evil. At its sitting of the 30th of last month the International Sanitary Commission decided not to allow the disembarking of cereals coming from Egypt without landing it in a lazaretto. Egyptian rice coming to Con-

stantinople must be disembarked at Tuzla, a lazaretto nearly two hours by rail from the capital, where said rice will be unloaded from the steamship on board lighters, in order to prevent the landing of rats, which may spread the disease. The Turkish Government, in order to prevent sanitary smuggling, has appointed three gunboats, on board of which there will be a sanitary official, to watch the Syrian coasts from Aalia to Beirut.

PLAGUE ON PILGRIM STEAMSHIP.

From Bassorah it has been announced that the steamship *Haidari* has arrived there from Bombay and the Persian cities, without excepting Mohamara, carrying pilgrims and passengers, among whom 6 died during the voyage, 1 off Bassorah and 1 on shore. All these deaths were bubonic plague deaths. The necessary sanitary steps have been taken.

The first steamship carrying pilgrims from the Hedjaz arrived at Constantinople the day before yesterday, May 30. The number of said pilgrims is 582, all in good health. They have been submitted, according to the regulations, to ten days' quarantine at Tor, in the Red Sea, and five days at the lazaretto of Clazomenes, near Smyrna, in the Mediterranean Sea.

INCLOSURES.

I have the honor to inclose, first, a French copy of the decision concerning the quarantine to which ships coming from Egypt are to be submitted; second, a French copy of the decision concerning the method of unloading cereals as above mentioned; third, a French copy of the decision concerning the abolition of the quarantine restrictions against the Hedjaz; fourth, a French copy of the epizootic bulletin of the Turkish Empire; fifth, a French copy of a project for the engagement of foreign sanitary physicians for the Ottoman sanitary service. When the commission on personnel presented said project, I said, what I have already written in my previous reports, that is, that if said commission on personnel were more careful about the choice and appointment of the sanitary physicians such a project would be unnecessary; but, unhappily, said commission on personnel's choice falls always on physicians of no value, as the members of the International Sanitary Commission have indirectly observed at the next to the last of its sittings.

Yours, respectfully,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,  
*U. S. Sanitary Commissioner.*

[Translated in this Bureau.]

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*Maritime and sanitary council of Egypt.*

[Report addressed by Dr. Gotschlich, sanitary inspector of the city to the director general of the municipality in regard to a case of plague which has occurred at Alexandria.]

ALEXANDRIA, May 20, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that on May 4 I was called to the Greek Hospital to examine a suspected plague case, the patient having entered the hospital May 3, with a very high fever and a bubo in the right armpit.

The clinical aspect of the case was not typical of plague. Bacteriological examination revealed the existence of a bacillus very like the bacillus of plague but which still manifested some points of difference from the plague bacillus. The patient, a boy of

17 or 20, a servant in the grocery of Monferrato, had not left Alexandria during the last few months. He lived in a large okelle (hotel) at the corner of Anastasia and Hamamiel streets in the second sanitary division of the city. Examination of the hotel showed that it includes a restaurant and inn for Jews which are tolerably well frequented by travelers. On the testimony of the proprietor there had been no travelers arriving from Djiddah. All the residents of the hotel and especially those who had slept in the same room with the boy have been examined and up to the present time are in good health.

In view of the fact that this first case was open to doubt from the clinical, bacteriological, and epidemiological points of view, I did not officially declare it to be plague, but all measures of disinfection were taken as if the case were one of veritable plague. In addition, His Excellency Sir Roger Pacha and Dr. Ruffer were informed officially, and the latter, with Dr. Bitter, viewed the case, which is now on the road to recovery.

On May 17, I was called to the hospital to examine a second case of suspected plague which had entered hospital the previous day. The patient is a Greek boy, servant to a tobacco seller living in Hamamiel street, in the vicinity of the house first infected. The patient presented himself on the evening of May 17, and on the morning of May 18, when I saw the patient in company with Dr. Ruffer, all the classic symptoms of plague were present, i. e., very painful bubo in the left axilla, fever 41°, delirium and great agitation. Bacteriological examination of the bubo showed a bacillus which in my opinion, as well as that of Dr. Bitter who also examined the case, is absolutely typical and presents all the characteristics of the true plague bacillus.

In view of the coincidence of the 2 cases in the same quarter presenting almost the same suspect symptoms and the same suspect bacillus, I have no hesitation in declaring that these 2 cases are true cases of plague. Investigation as to the source of infection has given the following results:

A direct relation of the first to the second case could not be discovered, and yet both cases are simple bubonic cases, and consequently not infectious. In the house in which the second case occurred there lives a washerwoman, who evidently has a great deal of custom. We found and disinfected an enormous quantity of soiled linen. Careful search will be made to discover the focus of infection; the houses in the quarter will be visited by a special physician who speaks Greek. Some weeks ago the physicians of the quarter received orders to make medical visits with the greatest care and to summon me personally to every suspected case, especially when there was any sign of glandular swelling or of pneumonia. Medical visits to deceased women are made by European female nurses, who have received the same instructions as the physicians.

Dr. E. GOTSCHLICH.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

By a decision of the superior council of health vessels arriving from the Egyptian littoral carrying cargoes of cereals, rice, and other varieties of food grain, and destined for some port of the Ottoman Empire, shall unload their cargoes at a port having a lazaretto, and after unloading, the hold of the vessel shall be thoroughly disinfected.

Vessels in this category destined for Constantinople shall after undergoing the required quarantine at the lazaretto of Clazomenes be authorized to repair in quarantine to the lazaretto of Touzla, at the entrance of the Gulf of Ismidt, where, after unloading and the disinfection of the hold, they shall receive pratique.

Cereals, rice, and other food grains shall be unloaded in lighters under sanitary surveillance and shall be immediately dispatched to their destination.

These requirements shall be applicable to vessels now in quarantine.

Dr. O. VITALIS,  
*Inspector of the Sanitary Service.*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

*Circular telegram to health officers, dated May 31, 1899.*

By decision of the superior council of health, the quarantine of ten days imposed on arrivals from the littoral of the Hedjaz, comprised between Lith and Yambo, is suspended except for pilgrim vessels.

Dr. O. VITALIS,  
*Inspector of the Sanitary Service.*

## [Inclosure No. 4.]

*Epizootic bulletin.*

ADALIA.—April 29, 1899. No epizootic disease exists in the vilayet of Koniah, except at Akseki, where a light and nonspecific disease prevails among goats, with a mortality of from 2 to 5 per cent.

TREBIZONDE.—May 15. The appearance of bovine plague was reported May 1 at Hotz and Mazuka, in the vicinity of Trebizonde, and in the vicinity of Karadéré, in the district of Surméné.

SALONICA.—Sheep pox is extinct at Granatna, district of Avrat-Hissar. On May 14 the appearance of sheep pox was reported at Tehataldja, a village in the district of Drama. Aphthous fever has existed since May among cattle at Persitchau, in the Sandjak of Drama, and Kork Lova, in the Sandjak of Serrés.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 29, 1899.

## [Inclosure No. 5.]

*Report of the committee on personnel.*

In accordance with the decision reached by the council at its last session the committee has the honor to report as follows:

PLAN FOR EMPLOYING FOREIGN PHYSICIANS IN THE SANITARY SERVICE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

There shall be addressed to the directors of the sanitary service in Italy, France, Germany, and Austria, through the medium of the chiefs of legation, a request that they each present to the superior council of health of Constantinople the names of 2 physicians who have satisfied the requirements for admission into the respective sanitary services, and also fulfilling the following conditions:

They shall be less than 35 years old, of robust health, possessing a sufficient knowledge of the French language, and having undergone special examinations in regard to sanitary regulations, epidemiology, and bacteriology.

They shall be employed in the medical sanitary service, under direction of the superior council of health, at a fixed salary of 3,000 piastres a month, which shall be increased one-half during the special service to which they shall be eventually assigned, and they shall receive, in addition, traveling expenses in proportion to their salary, in conformity with the present regulations.

They shall have the title of auxiliary sanitary physicians and shall sign an agreement for two years, at the expiration of which time they shall, with the consent of the superior council, be admitted into the number of the titular personnel for employment, the salary for which shall not be less than they had previously received.

Dr. ZÉRI, Reporter.

## FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

BAHAMAS—*Governors Harbor*.—Two weeks ended June 10, 1899. Estimated population, 1,500. Total number of deaths, 1. No contagious diseases.

Nassau.—Two weeks ended June 13, 1899. Estimated population, 11,000. Number of deaths not reported. No contagious diseases reported.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—*Vancouver*.—Month of May, 1899. Estimated population not reported. Total number of deaths, 23, including 1 from measles.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended June 3, 1899, correspond to an annual rate of 17.7 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 11,404,408. The highest rate was recorded in Manchester, viz, 26.5, and the lowest in Brighton, viz, 8.5.